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At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the STATISTICAL SOCIETY, held at the Rooms of the Society, 12, St. James's Square, on THURSDAY, 11th December, 1862, COLONEL SYKES, M.P., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair, the following communication from WILLIAM NEWMARCH, Esq., F.R.S., was read.

"MY acceptance of duties in one of the largest Banking Houses in the city of London, which will prevent me from attending effectively to the work which devolves on the Editor of the Statistical Society's *Journal*, and on the acting Honorary Secretary of the Society, renders it necessary for me to place in the hands of the Council my appointment to both these offices—received from them nearly six years ago.

"I do not tender this resignation without some regret, for I had become, in many ways, attached to occupations which enabled me, at least in some humble degree, to promote the progress of sound knowledge on many of the most important and interesting problems of our time.

"I have taken care that the gentleman who may be appointed to succeed me, shall not find in either of my departments of duty any arrears,—but that on the contrary, he shall find such arrangements completed, or in progress, as will carry on the business of the Society in the usual manner for a few months in advance of the present time.

"As shortly as possible, I will refer to one or two topics upon which I may perhaps venture to place on record opinions not hastily adopted.

"First, as regards the character of the *Journal*. It has been my endeavour, with the concurrence of the Council, to render the contents of the *Journal* as varied and useful as possible—and to do so not merely by inserting the best of the Papers read before the Society itself, but also such other original and selected contributions as seemed likely to promote the cultivation of Statistics in an enlarged spirit and with a philosophic purpose. We have arrived at a time when the incessant labours of the last thirty or forty years should begin to bear fruit by enabling us to generalize many of our conclusions, and obtain a clear perception of the fundamental principles which should guide our researches. Several Papers will be found in recent volumes of the *Journal*, written with more or less of a clear perception of this aspect of our special field of inquiry, and probably there is no path which it is more incumbent upon us

to pursue with vigour, than the path which conducts us towards just conceptions of the philosophy of statistical methods and results.

"In the second place, it has been sought to render the *Journal* a dispassionate authority on as many of the important public questions which have arisen from time to time, as could be properly brought within the scope of the Society. A new science will best ascertain its own strength and failings, and best win the attention of mankind by dealing promptly and practically with the subjects within its own range, which happen to interest the world at large.

"In the third place, by means of a series of carefully framed Tables at the end of each Number, it has been sought to preserve in the *Journal* continuous observations, scientifically adjusted, of a considerable portion of the phenomena which indicate the social and material progress of the nation. It has been already found that these Tables framed and kept up on a plan of exact uniformity, have answered many useful purposes.

"In the fourth place, great care has been directed to the mechanical details of the *Journal*, and particularly to the form, size, and arrangement of every Tabular statement. The object has been to exclude every superfluous figure and mark. To admit everything essential to a sound judgment of the case—but to reject as positively mischievous, whatever was trivial or cumbrous. In order to reach the apprehension easily, the convenience of the eyesight of the reader has been studiously considered.

"The price of the *Journal* to the public was raised nearly 40 per cent. some time ago; but the enhanced price has not in any way diminished the sale; on the contrary, the demand for the *Journal* is on the increase.

"As concerns the general position of the Society, it must be regarded as gratifying that, notwithstanding the rapid growth of new learned societies which concern themselves with kindred subjects, we have been able to maintain, almost unimpaired, the standard of revenue and efficiency of the earlier periods of our career.

"I confess, however, that I have long entertained the opinion that the time has come when it will be found advantageous, and perhaps necessary, that the six or seven societies now existing in London for the cultivation of different branches of Social Science, should form themselves into a Federation, not so complete as to be subversive of individual independence, but sufficiently compact to secure the great objects of (1) concentrated libraries and places of meeting; (2) economy in management and expenses; (3) moral and intellectual power arising from the combination of several parts into one consistent whole.

"Several members of the Council will remember that at various times during the last two years, I have suggested the desirableness

of an arrangement of the kind now indicated, and that some progress has been made in the consideration of details.

"I employ, without any hesitation, the phrase *Social Science*, not perhaps as the most exact term that could be found, but as the title of a new branch of knowledge which has already acquired in the public apprehension, a definite place and a recognised function.

"There are in London at the present time the following seven societies, all engaged in one way or the other, in the cultivation of Social Science, viz.:—

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| 1. Statistical Society. | 5. Reformatory Union. |
| 2. Institute of Actuaries. | 6. Association of Sanitary Officers. |
| 3. Juridical Society. | 7. National Association for promoting |
| 4. Society for Amendment of Law. | Social Science. |

"It seems to me that the manifest policy of these seven separate societies—to say nothing of manifest duty—is to form themselves into a powerful 'Institute of Social Science,' on the model of the British Association, and the Social Science Association:—that is to say, full sectional action and independence under the supervision of a central authority.

"It will be observed that in the list of societies just given, there is no provision for the investigation and discussion of questions of *Economic Science* as a separate and special pursuit; and yet sound Economic views are indispensable to the successful treatment of most of the subjects which engage the attention of the learned bodies now enumerated. There is, moreover, the striking anomaly that in the native land of Political Economy, and in the country which has done, and is doing, the most to discover its laws and illustrate their application, there is in the multitude of scientific associations, not one which specially cultivates a branch of knowledge so essentially English and practical. In France there have been for a long period the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, besides other special means of promoting economical studies. An Institute of Social Science would be well able, by means of concentrated strength and resources, to establish a separate Section of Political Economy, and so supply a defect and a want which has been long confessed.

"It may be sufficient to say here, that conformity to at least four principles may be assumed to be indispensable in any efforts which may be made to establish a federal union of societies, viz., (1) that each existing society shall remain in possession of its own property, shall continue to be governed by its own internal rules, and shall continue to choose its own managers and officers; (2) that similar independence shall be preserved as regards the control of the publication of its own papers and proceedings; (3) that each meeting of each of the federated societies shall be open to the members of each of the other federated societies, so as to concentrate upon each

department the force of the entire body ; and (4) that the authority to be exercised by the Officers and Council of the Federation itself, should be limited to the purposes and objects rather of advising than of actively interfering with, the associated societies.

“ It has been stated that the Memorial to the late Prince Consort, to be erected at Kensington, will include a Hall or College available for the use of learned societies. If this statement should be verified, it is allowable to say that no plan would more happily fulfil some of the favourite schemes of the lamented Prince himself, than a union in his memory of those learned bodies which cultivate that Social Science which is so greatly beholden to him as a founder, guide, and expositor.

“ As concerns the Meetings of the Society, I believe I shall be quite justified by the opinion of others, when I say that at no period in its history have the meetings of the Society been better attended than during the last five or six years ; or have the discussions been more animated and instructive.

“ As a Member of the Society—or if it be the pleasure of the Fellows, as a Member of the Council—I hope to have the satisfaction of still manifesting that constant interest in the welfare of the Society, which has become to me so confirmed a habit, that I should have some difficulty in shaking it off.”

It was ordered that the preceding Minute be recorded in the proceedings of the Council, and it was Resolved unanimously—

“ That the Council in accepting Mr. Newmarch’s resignation of “ his offices of Honorary Secretary, and Editor of the *Journal*, desire “ to record their approbation of his valuable services in both those “ capacities. The Fellows generally are well aware of the practical “ and scientific character of the *Journal* under his Editorship, but “ the Council alone know how much credit is justly due to Mr. New- “ march. They thank him for the valuable suggestions which he has “ now made, and hope to be able to carry several of them into effect. “ They hear of the cause of his resignation with satisfaction, as in “ the position which he assumes, he will have an opportunity of “ successfully applying to the highest branch of the commerce of “ London, the sound financial principles which he has elucidated by “ his scientific papers. They heartily wish him success, and trust “ they shall receive his support in still further developing the usefulness of the Society, which owes so much to his zeal and labours.”

It was also Resolved—

“ That a Sub-Committee be now appointed to consider the suggested union of the learned Societies cultivating Social Science, to “ confer in a preliminary sense with the officers or leading members “ of the Societies indicated, and to report to a future Council.

“ And that the Committee consist of Colonel Sykes, Dr. Farr “ Mr. Newmarch, and the Honorary Secretaries.”